

Mine Shaft and Adit Closing

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 457



DEFINITION

Mine Shaft Closing is filling underground mines or closing exposed openings.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice is used in locations where shafts, sinkholes, or adits of underground mines have been left open after mining has been discontinued.

Mine shaft closing is generally associated with other reclamation practices to restore the area and prepare it for beneficial use.

This practice gives specific attention to bat habitat and provisions are made for installing gates or other closure techniques to accommodate bats and other wildlife. Consideration is also given to protection of cultural resources and specific guidance is provided for that purpose in the NRCS

practice standard contained in the field office technical guide.

The purposes of mine shaft closing are to:

- Fill or seal mine shafts and other openings to reduce subsidence
- Reduce safety and health hazards caused by emission of gases and other pollutants.
- Reduce hazards associated with living, working, or playing around a mine shaft
- Close openings to humans while maintaining access for wildlife species when appropriate
- Close openings for protection of cultural resources when appropriate

Additional information including design criteria and specifications are in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.